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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/928,608	08/13/2001	Tsuyoshi Watanabe	44471-262265 (13700)	7518

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Roger T. Frost  
KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP  
Suite 2800  
1100 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, GA 30309-4530

EXAMINER

CULBRETH, ERIC D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3616

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/928,608

Applicant(s)  
Watanabe

Examiner  
Eric Culbreth

Art Unit  
3616



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 11, 2002
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Apr 11, 2002 is/are a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 6 6) ☐ Other:

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

1. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 4/11/02. These drawings are approved.

### ***Priority***

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

3. On the Information Disclosure Statement's form PTO-1449 filed 4/1/2002, Tonooka has been marked through because it is already of record.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 4 are not accurate in reciting only the lower joining line among the upper and lower joining lines being smoothly curved in such a manner that a middle portion of the joining line

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projects toward the occupant (note Figures 5-7, where the upper joining also curves smoothly into the lower joining line so that it also makes the middle portion of the joining line project toward the occupant).

In claims 1 and 4 also, it is not accurate to recite the base cloths forming a substantially closed box shape, as the bag does not define a “box” as understood. Noting applicant’s request for suggestions, “concave” might be more accurate.

In claims 3 and 6, “radius” should be “radii”.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 1-6 as best understood are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent 9-99795 (cited by applicant) in view of Krickl (of record).

In Figure 1, Japanese ‘795 discloses upper and lower base cloths A and B with side and rear portions and smooth lower joining lines as claimed in claims 1 and 2. However, when the sheets are joined as in Figure 2, the curved lower joining line does not clearly cause a bulge of the lower portion toward the occupant. Krickl discloses a bag in which the seams along the lower side and rear facing portion result in the lower portion of the bag projecting toward the occupant (note Figure 1, where the lower portion of the bag projects away from the inflation hole 12). It would have been obvious

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to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Japanese '795 to include a lower seam projecting the lower rear face toward the occupant such as taught by Krickl in order to better position the deployed bag relative to the occupant. In the combination, only the lower joining line of the upper and lower joining line of Japanese '795 would curve smoothly in such a manner that a middle portion of the joining line projects toward the occupant inasmuch as occupant's invention, where the upper joining line in Figure 7 also smoothly curves at the middle portion of the overall joining line. Regarding claims 3 and 6, in the combination Krickl's lower joining line along the edge 20 in Figure 2 has curvatures of different radii adjacent each other, and these features would be included in the combination.

### *Conclusion*

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be

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calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Culbreth whose telephone number is (703) 308-0360.

ec

June 17, 2002



ERIC CULBRETH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

